

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SAM-01 NIC-01 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 105113

R 192117Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 19,
1975:

QUOTE: Q. IN THE STATEMENT LAST NIGHT THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER, MR. FAHMI, SAID THAT THERE COULD BE NO RESUMPTION
OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNTIL ALL EGYPTIAN WEAPONS LOST IN
'73 HAD BEEN REPLACED. WHAT DOES THIS DO FOR THE TIMING OF
THE CONFERENCE "AT AN EARLY DATE" AS AGREED BY DR. KISSING-
ER AND MR. GROMYKO?

A. I REALLY THINK, AS I HAVE DONE THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE
PERIOD WHILE THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN THE MIDDLE
EAST -- I DON'T BELIEVE THAT I REALLY SHOULD COMMENT ON ANY
ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION OR ANY OF THE SUBJECTS
THAT HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME.

Q. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, IN A REMARKABLE ACT OF CANDOR,
HAS JUST MADE PUBLIC A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL THE GOVERN-
MENT CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR THE TRAINING OF
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FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL. IT DID NOT COVER COMMERCIAL
CONTRACTS DIRECTLY BETWEEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND THE
U.S. CONTRACTORS. THEY SAID THAT INFORMATION REALLY WOULD
HAVE TO COME FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I WONDER IF YOU
ARE WILLING TO MATCH THE CANDOR OF THE PENTAGON AND PRO-
VIDE US A LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED COMMERCIAL CON-
TRACTS FOR THE TRAINING OF FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

A. WELL, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION. I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION THAT YOU ARE REQUESTING AT THIS TIME, AND I ALSO WILL READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE RECORD OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING.

Q. CAN YOU GET THAT INFORMATION FOR US TODAY?

A. I'LL TRY.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SALES OF WEAPONS TO KUWAIT? THERE'S A STORY IN THE PAPER THIS MORNING ABOUT THIS.

A. WELL, I THINK AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AGREED TO SUPPLY KUWAIT WITH SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND AS HAS BEEN DONE IN SIMILAR CASES, AMERICAN PERSONNEL WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT, ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

Q. AMERICAN PERSONNEL?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES -- PRIVATE CONTRACTORS OR WHAT?

A. WELL, MAYBE THE NEW YORK TIMES WOULD BE THE MESSENGER BACK TO THE PENTAGON, AND TAKE ANY FOLLOW ON QUESTIONS AS TO THE DETAILS OF THE KUWAITI ARRANGEMENT IN TERMS OF TRAINING, AND WHAT KIND OF CONTRACT IT IS, WHAT PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED, ETCETERA. I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAN THAT.

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Q. CAN YOU SPECIFY THE TYPES OF WEAPONS INVOLVED?

A. WELL AGAIN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARD POLICY, I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT.

Q. WELL AREN'T SOME OF THEM HAWK MISSILES?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THAT.

Q. ARE YOU DENYING THAT THE HAWK MISSILES ARE --

A. I'M NOT DENYING ANYTHING. I'M JUST SAYING THAT I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT THAT WE HAVE WITH KUWAIT -- THIS AGREEMENT.

Q. WELL, IF THEY ARE NOT HAWK MISSILES, I DON'T KNOW WHY RAYTHEON HAS BEEN GIVEN A \$236,000.00 CONTRACT TO TRAIN KUWAITIS IN AIR DEFENSE.

A. WELL, FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE ASK THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

Q. WELL, IT WAS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OH, ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THAT KUWAIT WAS, IN PRINCIPLE, INTERESTED IN SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT. THIS WAS DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME IN THIS ROOM. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER AIRCRAFT IS INCLUDED?

A. I AM SORRY, I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO HOLD TO WHAT I SAID, THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH KUWAIT.

Q. LOOK, IF THIS IS A SALES AGREEMENT, IF IT'S BEYOND A CERTAIN LEVEL, SOME OF THE MATERIAL WOULD HAVE TO BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS UNDER THE NELSON AMENDMENT. IS IT OF THAT MAGNITUDE? AND HAS A REPORT BEEN MADE?

A. WELL I'M SURE THAT ANY LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

Q. BUT WERE THERE ANY, AND HAVE THEY BEEN MET?
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A. I WILL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF MIG 23S INTO EGYPT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THOSE REPORTS.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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